

From: [Nickel, Brian](#)
To: [Plant, Peter L](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:46:00 AM

Peter:

If there's any information you can share about the amount/fraction of Spencer Lateral water that is used for irrigation, that would be helpful as well.

Thanks,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer
US EPA Region 10 | Water Division | NPDES Permits Section
Voice: 206-553-6251 | Toll Free: 800-424-4372 ext. 6251 | Fax: 206-553-1280
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<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/about-region-10s-npdes-permit-program>
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From: Nickel, Brian
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 1:45 PM
To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

In part because of some concerns raised by NOAA Fisheries about the potential effects of the Washington Beef discharge upon steelhead, I would like to know if the Spencer Lateral diversion is screened to prevent fish passage.

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer
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From: Nickel, Brian
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 11:20 AM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

Just checking in to see if any flow data for Spencer Lateral have been located and if the diversion of Spencer Lateral from Wanity Slough is screened.

Thanks,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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From: Nickel, Brian

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 12:00 PM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

I'm checking in once again to see if any flow data for Spencer Lateral have been located.

I have an additional question: Is the diversion of Spencer Lateral from Wanity Slough screened to prevent fish passage?

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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From: Nickel, Brian

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:52 AM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

I'm checking in to see if the watermaster was able to compile those flow records for Spencer Lateral. Thanks for your help.

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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From: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:06 AM

To: Nickel, Brian <Nickel.Brian@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Thanks for the reminder. I did check with him, he said he had some records and was going to compile what he had. He may have gotten busy. I'll check back with him.

From: Nickel, Brian <Nickel.Brian@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 9:53 AM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

I'm checking in to see if you or the watermaster were able to find any flow data/records for Spencer Lateral.

Thanks,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA Region 10 | Water Division | NPDES Permits Section

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From: Nickel, Brian

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 3:10 PM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

Thanks for the update; I appreciate it. By the way, in my last message, I meant to type "Spencer Lateral" instead of "Wanity Slough." I do have some water quality and quantity data for the slough, although I'm always happy to get more.

It's OK if there isn't water quality data for the lateral. I have some data for pH, DO, E. coli, turbidity, BOD, and ammonia collected by Washington Beef, so, if I had some flow data for Spencer Lateral, I'd be in pretty good shape.

Regarding the age of Spencer Lateral flow data, I'm interested in any data recent enough to be representative of the lateral's current operations. If it's helpful to have a date for narrowing the search, perhaps we can start with data going back to February 1, 2010, which is when Washington Beef's current permit went into effect.

Thank you again,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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From: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 12:39 PM

To: Nickel, Brian <Nickel.Brian@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Afternoon,

I have the watermaster looking at his records for flow. How far back do you need information?

WIP is not likely to have water quality information. However, the Yakama Nation may have some (although I'm not sure). The contact for YN Water would be Scott Ladd.

Thanks,

From: Nickel, Brian <Nickel.Brian@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 3:29 PM

To: Plant, Peter L <Peter.Plant@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Peter:

Just checking in to see if you've been able to locate any water quality or quantity/flow data for Wanity Slough.

Thank you,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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From: Nickel, Brian

Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 12:55 PM

To: peter.plant@bia.gov

Subject: Flow data for Spencer Lateral in Toppenish, WA

Peter:

I am a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit writer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I'm working on reissuing the permit for Washington Beef, LLC., which has an NPDES permit to discharge both to Spencer Lateral and to Wanity Slough. Their prior permit (which is still in effect), is on our website, here:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-permit-washington-beef-toppenish-washington>

Specifically, they discharge to Spencer Lateral during the irrigation season, when there is water

flowing in the lateral. However, I don't have any flow or water quality data for Spencer Lateral.

I was given your name and e-mail address as someone who may be able to help me find flow and/or water quality data for Spencer Lateral. I was able to find some flow and water quality data for Wanity Slough on USGS NWIS and in the water quality portal, but I'd also be interested in additional data for Wanity Slough as well, if it's available.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Thanks,

Brian Nickel, E.I.T.

Environmental Engineer

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